

Order No. 86, J. O. Talley,  
Order No. 87, W. M. Lyon,

50 00  
30 00

Receipts previously reported,  
Receipts for December,

\$ 226 93  
\$ 624 80  
241 06

Expenditures previously reported,  
Expenditures for December,

\$ 865 86  
\$ 657 01  
226 93

Expenditures in excess of receipts,

\$ 883 94  
\$ 18 08

#### FOREIGN FUND RECEIPTS

J. S. C. Spickerman, White Cloud, Kans.,  
Ben. and Clarissa Mast, Nappanee, Ind.,

\$ 50  
5 00

Amount previously reported,

\$ 5 50  
361 17  
\$ 367 67

#### WASHINGTON CHURCH BUILDING FUND

Receipts previously reported,

\$208 50

John Reither, New Virginia, Iowa, 1 00  
Mrs. Savilla Lichty, Waterloo, Iowa, 1 00  
Bethel church, Michigan, 1 16  
S. D. Fultz, Mt. Sidney, 1 00

4 16

Total, \$212 66

The above is the amount of cash in the Washington church building fund. Besides there is subscribed and not paid just about five hundred dollars making the contributions to date something over seven hundred dollars. This is the result of about three years of effort to raise funds for a Brethren church in the city of Washington.

The cost of the church including ground will at least be seven thousand dollars, rather more than less, but taking that as a basis if we continue to raise money and subscriptions at the rate we have been doing, say about two hundred and thirty dollars per year it will take yet thirty years to build the proposed church. There will of course be an accumulation of interest during these years, but the probability is that the shrinkage in the payment of subscriptions will amount to more than the interest. Brethren, when are we going to build that church?

The fact of the matter is, if we that are active in the work of the church at present propose to build that church, we must have subscriptions of much larger amounts from such as have means than have heretofore been given. We need twenty individuals to give at least one hundred dollars each. Twenty more to give fifty dollars. Fifty to give twenty-five dollars. One hundred to give ten dollars, one hundred five dollars. This will still leave enough to balance to make up by small collections.

If the money cannot be raised by these larger subscriptions it can only be done by a canvasser who will institute a system of receiving small offerings thru out the entire church. On a basis of twenty thousand members in the church it would take about thirty cents from each member to raise the necessary amount, a little over half a cent a week, for one year. Brethren, when and how are we going to build that church?

Let us look the facts in the face and determine what we will do, or what the Lord would have us do.

There is much kindly sentiment in favor of building a Brethren church in the National Capitol; it appears to be the dream of the entire church. I share in that sentiment, but sentiment will not build it. It takes hard cash.

This work has been committed to the National Mission Board but the board can only proceed as the church furnishes the means or directs.

As the secretary of the board I am very anxious to receive suggestions or effect some more lively agitation of this matter than we have thus far had and above all I am very anxious to receive subscriptions, and still more anxious to receive the cash itself.

JACOB C. CASSEL,  
Sec. M. B. of the B. C.

## The Sunday School

### LESSON 3.—JANUARY 21

The Preaching of John the Baptist.—Luke 3: 1-17

*Golden Text.*—Prepare ye the way of the Lord.—Luke 3: 4.

*Lesson Thought.*—We should prepare the way for Christ in our own hearts and community.

*Time.*—John began to preach in the summer A. D. 26; he was imprisoned March A. D. 28, and martyred one year after, having preached not quite two years.

*Place.*—John preached in the wilderness lying west of the Jordan and Dead Sea as far north as Enon.

*Persons.*—Tiberius Caesar, emperor of Rome; Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea; Jesus still lived at Nazareth, and was between 29 and 30 years old.

#### Home Readings

Read Malachi 3: 1-7; 4: 1-6; John 1: 15-28; Matt. 3: 1-12; Eph. 4: 25-32; Isaiah 40: 1-8. Learn by heart. verses 3-6.

#### Lesson Text

1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod Tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Abilene,

2 In the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

3 And he came into all the region round about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance unto remission of sins;

4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make ye ready the way of the Lord, Make his paths straight.

5 Every valley shall be filled, And every mountain and hill shall be brought low; And the crooked shall become straight, And the rough ways shall be made smooth;

6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

7 He said therefore to the multitudes that went out to be baptized of him, Ye offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

9 And even now is the ax also laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

10 And the multitudes asked him, saying, What then must we do?

11 And he answered and said unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none, and he that hath food let him do likewise.

12 And there came also publicans to be baptized, and they said unto him, Master what must we do?

13 And he said unto them, Extort no more than that which is appointed you.

14 And the soldiers also asked him, saying, And we, what must we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither exact anything wrongfully; and be content with your wages.

15 And as the people were in expectation, and all men reasoned in their hearts concerning John, whether haply he were the Christ;

16 John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but there cometh he that is mightier than I, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

17 Whose fan is in his hand, thoroughly to cleanse his threshing-floor, and to gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn up with unquenchable fire.

#### Introduction

Last week we learned of Jesus as a boy of twelve. We saw his earnestness, his seriousness even at that age. We pass over in the interval between that lesson and the one of today a strange mysterious silence of about 18 years. How we should love to know some of the events in his life which took place in those silent years! But the hand of God has shut them from our view. They were years of preparation, of thought, of forming character. And we can judge of them somewhat by the results which appear in Jesus' life when we again see him.

Doubtless, they were years spent in the carpenter shop of Joseph at Nazareth learning the trade, and years of blessed thought and teaching in the home of that sweet and holy woman Mary, his mother.

It is probable that Joseph died soon after the time of the last lesson and that Jesus was the support of his mother and the younger children of the family.

#### The Time and Rulers

Luke carefully marks the time of this lesson. He says it was "in the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and Trachonitis and Lysanias, tetrarch of Abilene, in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas." That is about 26 A. D., or when Jesus was about thirty years old. Caesar Augustus was the ruler of the Roman Empire at the time of the last lesson. He had died and was succeeded by his nephew Tiberius, who was emperor also when Jesus was crucified. Herod the Great who was king of Judea at the time of the birth of Christ, had died soon after Christ's birth. His kingdom was now divided into four parts, each part called a *tetrarchy* and the rulers of each called a *tetrarch*. But Judea however was not under a tetrarch but under a Roman officer called *procurator* or governor, who at this time was Pilate. Herod Antipas was one of the tetrarchs and ruled the regions of Galilee and Perea. This was the same Herod before whom Jesus was sent by Pilate to be tried.

His brother Philip was tetrarch of regions which can be seen on any good map. This was the man whose wife was taken by Herod, and who, because John the Baptist told Herod it was not lawful to have her, got Herod to behead John.

#### The Lesson Story

Likewise over the life of John the Baptist as over that of Jesus hangs a veil of silence for long years. The last we heard of John was the story of his birth and the simple statement that he increased in wisdom and stature. We are also told that he was in the desert, that portion of the land along the mouth of Jordan and the head of the Dead Sea, until the time of his showing to Israel. Now, there in that desert somewhere, as he studied the scriptures and lived his lonely,